

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL). The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF FIRST 5 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

(Mr. CARBAJAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the work being done by First 5 San Luis Obispo County for families on the central coast.

I stand to endorse their Children's Bill of Rights. This document serves as a guide well beyond San Luis Obispo County that every lawmaker in this Nation should work toward, especially the right to visit a doctor to help children stay physically and mentally healthy.

This week marks the eighth anniversary of the Affordable Care Act that covers 1 million children through the State and Federal marketplaces. The ACA also made significant investments in our Children's Health Insurance Program.

I urge my colleagues to continue to work together to strengthen this legislation. By controlling the cost of prescription drugs, ensuring cost-sharing reduction subsidies, and adding a public option to bring down the cost of health insurance plans, we can ensure that we continue to raise healthy children.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 14

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Boy Scout Troop 14 of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, on its centennial celebration.

Troop 14 is the oldest consecutively chartered troop in the Susquehanna Council Boy Scouts of America. Saint John's-Newberry United Methodist Church has been its sponsor for these 100 years.

Troop 14 has provided scouting to boys in Newberry and the surrounding area. Impressively, the troop has produced 127 Eagle Scouts during that time. It has been through the efforts of many that the troop has been and continues to be an active and strong unit. For 100 years, Troop 14 has helped scores of Boy Scouts build a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society.

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the Nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations, providing programs for young people that build character,

train them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develop personal fitness.

Mr. Speaker, along with my colleague, TOM MARINO, I commend Troop 14 on its centennial celebration for building so many future leaders by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun. I wish them the very best on this milestone occasion and look forward to another 100 years of excellence.

COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. BARRAGÁN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. This type of cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States.

Each March, we raise awareness about this terrible disease and spread the word about the importance of getting screened. If you are 45 years or older, please get yourself screened early.

The disease poses an especially high risk to African-American men and women who have the highest rate of death and the lowest survival rate among all Americans. This is why I am proud to support funding for programs like the Colorectal Cancer Control Program, which was established specifically to address disparities in screening rates and to improve access to underserved populations.

Along with the Affordable Care Act, which requires the coverage of screening tests, we can provide the healthcare that Americans need to stay cancer free.

HONORING THE SEVEN U.S. MILITARY MEMBERS KILLED IN IRAQ ON MARCH 16, 2018

(Mr. KINZINGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINZINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of our fallen heroes, the seven U.S. military members killed in the helicopter crash over western Iraq on Saturday, March 16, 2018.

As an airman, I had the privilege of flying with Captain Andreas O'Keefe. His Air Force service included three tours in Iraq, serving in Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa and, most recently, in Texas to help out during Hurricane Harvey. And still, he wanted to do more.

Andy was a fellow air guardsman, a Long Island guy, and served with the 106th Rescue Wing of the New York Air National Guard. Like many who join the service, Andy did so voluntarily, with a servant's heart, eager to serve his country and to help others. Without question, he lived by the 106th credo: "That others may live."

As a nation, we mourn for the families and loved ones of those fallen heroes. We send them our prayers, deepest condolences, and deepest gratitude for their service to the country.

While we grieve this tragic loss, I know Andy died doing what he loved and what he was called to do and what he wanted to do: serve his country.

Mr. Speaker, we stand in this Chamber because of the sacrifices of men and women like this. We have the freedom to debate and vote and use our voices because of their sacrifice.

With that, it is with a heavy heart that I say Godspeed to my friend, Captain O'Keefe.

May God bless our troops every day.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COACH DON LUCIA

(Mr. EMMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding person and a friend.

Don Lucia started playing hockey on outdoor rinks in northern Minnesota as a boy. After playing the game through high school and college, he became one of the most successful college hockey coaches in the country. Recently, Coach Lucia announced he will retire from coaching the Minnesota Golden Gophers men's hockey team after 19 seasons.

During his tenure at Minnesota, Don's teams regularly finished at the top of the WCHA and, more recently, won the Big Ten Conference 4 out of the past 5 years. His teams also made the NCAA playoffs 13 times and won two national titles.

As a player growing up in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, Don was a leader. He was disciplined, and he made everyone around him better. As a coach, he not only built winning teams, he developed young men.

Don is retiring as a true ambassador for the game. While he will no longer be coaching our Minnesota Gophers, I hope Don continues to be a leader for the game of hockey and for our State for years to come.

Don, thank you for leading our Gophers to victory time and time again. Good luck to you; your wonderful wife, Joyce; and the rest of the Lucia family as you start the next chapter.

HONORING MICHAEL MACCHIAVELLO

(Mr. PITTENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of North Carolina State University senior Michael Macchiavello, who, on March 17, won the NCAA Division I National Wrestling Championship at 197 pounds.

Mr. Macchiavello is a graduate of Sun Valley High School in Indian

Trail, North Carolina, where he was a 4A State champion wrestler in 2013, when he posted a 61–1 record. His college coach says Michael is constantly improving and that his work ethic, discipline, attitude, and commitment put him in position to compete for the national title.

Mr. Macchiavello is not just a champion inside the ring. He has already completed a bachelor's degree in finance and is working on a master's of arts.

Congratulations to Michael Macchiavello on winning the NCAA Division I National Wrestling Championship. Indian Trail, Union County, and the entire Ninth Congressional District are mighty proud of him. We wish him the best in what we know will be a great success for him in the future.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1625, TARGETED REWARDS FOR THE GLOBAL ERADICATION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 23, 2018, THROUGH APRIL 9, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 796 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 796

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1625) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to include severe forms of trafficking in persons within the definition of transnational organized crime for purposes of the rewards program of the Department of State, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115-66. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion.

SEC. 2. On any legislative day during the period from March 23, 2018, through April 9, 2018 —

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 3. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 4. Each day during the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of

section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546).

SEC. 5. Each day during the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution shall not constitute a legislative day for purposes of clause 7 of rule XIII.

SEC. 6. The chair of the Committee on Appropriations may insert in the Congressional Record not later than March 23, 2018, such material as he may deem explanatory of the Senate amendment and the motion specified in the first section of this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

□ 0915

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, last night, at a late hour, the Rules Committee met, where we had expert testimony that was offered on behalf of the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from New Jersey and the gentlewoman from New York.

I would like to, if I could, express to my friend, Mr. MCGOVERN, the professional nature not only that he but Judge HASTINGS, another member of the committee, represented the Democratic side at a time that is very difficult for them with the passing and loss of a tremendous leader in the House of Representatives, the gentlewoman from New York, Chairwoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER.

Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. HASTINGS not only conducted themselves, in my opinion, in a professional straightforward manner, but represented their party quite well in a time of distress and a time of need. I want to express my complete confidence not only in Mr. MCGOVERN, but also thank Judge HASTINGS for his professional demeanor last night as we worked through very, very difficult issues till late in the night, till early in the morning. And compliments also to the gentlemen, the chairman of the committee and the ranking member for their professional conversations that were had that were in the best interest not only of the House of Representatives but the American people. I want to thank Mr. MCGOVERN publicly at this time for his professional cause and substance.

Mr. Speaker, today we rise in support of this rule and, of course, the underlying legislation. The rule provides for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1625, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018.

Mr. Speaker, this is funding the government for the rest of the year, through September 30. This is an important measure. This is an important measure not only for the American people, but it is important for Members of Congress.

There are a lot of ways that we could stand and say what we are for or what we are against, but the bottom line is that this is a piece of legislation that has been worked on, on a bipartisan basis, Republicans and Democrats, give and take, and has been worked on the other side of the Capitol with the United States Senate.

It is in no way a perfect bill. That, I think, I learned a long time ago, is hard to get through to be signed by the President. But with that said, it yielded amazing results in a process that needed to come to a conclusion.

This 12-bill appropriations package provides funding for fiscal year 2018 at levels consistent with the bipartisan budget agreement and the National Defense Authorization Act.

After years of neglect, this body has taken the important step of reshaping and rebuilding the United States military by providing them \$659.6 billion worth of funding for our national defense. But it is for more than just national defense. It is also trying to give better protection to the men and women who protect us, the men and women who, today, are in cold, lonely, hot, dangerous places around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, a much-needed \$65 billion increase over 2017 fiscal year spending was essential. Mr. Speaker, the numbers speak for themselves. More members of our armed services gave their life in defense of this country in training exercises than they did in combat last year. This is a hardy reminder for Members of Congress and the American people to understand that our men and women not only fight hard, but they train hard. And in that defense, we need to do a better job to make sure that the equipment, the training, and the needs that they have are top flight year-round not just in combat areas, but in training missions where they are preparing to protect this country. Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way to that, and I am proud of the work that we have done.

The agreement ends, I think, the irresponsible practice of pairing dollar-for-dollar increases in defense spending with nondefense. This is a hard fight. This is a hard fight not only Republican-Democrat, but across this country. We have tried to make some balanced decisions. We have tried to err on the side of using money for the best interest of research and development and to move this country forward.

The bill strengthens missile defense. It strengthens and funds new weapons systems for the military. And it heavily increases designated counterthreats around the globe. As you know, Mr. Speaker, we are facing down one of the greatest threats to the world right now, North Korea. Now is not a time to